

HONORING BOB IDEN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize to Dr. Bob Iden for his 11 years of outstanding service to Lake Highlands High School and his community.

After graduating from Lake Highlands High School, Dr. Iden attended Kilgore College on a football scholarship and finished his bachelor's and master's degree at North Texas University. Upon graduating, he continued to use his athletic background as a coach and teacher for the Richardson Independent School District for nine years. After working for the administration, Dr. Iden was hired to be the principal at his high school alma mater, Lake Highlands High School.

During his eleven years as principal, Dr. Iden's school received numerous honors under his leadership. In 2002, Lake Highlands High School was named a Blue Ribbon School, one of the highest honors a school can receive. In addition to numerous students being named National Merit Scholars, this year one of his students was named a Rhodes Scholar. Dr. Iden has received national recognition in *Newsweek* and *U.S. News and World Report* for his achievements, and he has become a tremendously well-respected and valued member of the Lake Highlands community.

This year Dr. Iden will retire from his career in education. I would like to wish Dr. Iden the best of luck in his future endeavors. While his time as an educator has come to an end, the results of his hard work will no doubt continue to be seen for generations to come.

Madam speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Dr. Bob Iden for his devotion to education and for helping to shape a brighter future for our community and our country.

HONORING BARBARA AND EDWARD COGAN

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Barbara and Edward Cogan, educators who both recently retired after more than 30 years of distinguished service. Day after day they energetically taught our youngsters valuable life skills, while raising their family in the great community of Hacienda Heights, California, and volunteering with programs that have enhanced education throughout the 38th Congressional District.

Barbara Ruth Cogan grew up in the great city of Montebello, California, and began teaching in 1970 at Belvedere Elementary School. She later joined the staff of Basset High School in 1975 after receiving her credential in Special Education. Over the past 33 years there she has worked in the OH (Orthopedically Handicapped) department, providing tireless support to her students and always strove to ensure that each and every young adult in her classes reached their full potential.

Edward Cogan grew up in East Los Angeles and began his career in the field of mathematics as an engineer in Pomona, California. Starting in 1972 he also began teaching, working in both the Hacienda/La Puente and Los Angeles Unified School Districts, finally retiring from El Sereno Middle School in Los Angeles. His lessons on computer science and programming were years ahead of the internet revolution and provided a generation of students with the inspiration to pursue further careers in technology.

Barbara and Edward also spent many years volunteering in the 38th District. Many of their summers were spent contributing to the programs of the Youth Science Center in Hacienda Heights, an organization dedicated to inspiring people of all ages to discover the excitement of science and technology. Their involvement as parents also extended to countless hours of enthusiastic support to local schools, little leagues, and youth activities.

Madam Speaker, today I would like to personally acknowledge and congratulate Barbara and Edward Cogan for their many years of dedicated work and I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding their efforts as educators. I wish them both continued success, health and happiness in the future.

HONORING THE ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding results achieved by the Assumption High School's Girls' Basketball Team who won the Iowa Class 2A 2008 Iowa State Championship.

I congratulate the Assumption Knights for defeating the Mar-Mac Bulldogs 46-27 on Friday, April 29, 2008, at the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines.

This victory was the result of a remarkable defense that held their opponent to 30 percent shooting in the championship game, and an even stronger offense that shot 61 percent from the field in the second-half of the championship.

From 2004 to 2007, the Lady Knights won 94 percent of their regular season games only to finish just shy of the state championship. But in 2008, the Knights' perseverance was rewarded! They finished a perfect 27-0 and brought Assumption High School its first girls' basketball state championship!

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Assumption High School. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team says it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This past season, Assumption High School proved just that.

HONORING A FALLEN HEALTHCARE WORKER

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, several months ago, the Kingsbridge Heights Rehabilitation Center in the West Bronx unilaterally decided to stop making payments to the health care fund for its employees. Before some of my colleagues "tisk tisk, well that's just the free market at work"—as the *Daily News* and their award-winning columnist, Errol Louis, pointed out—this center has made \$5.2 million in profits last year and its CAO, Helen Sieger, made \$700,000 in salary—all of it paid for by Medicaid funds, our tax dollars.

Audrey Smith-Campbell and 220 of her colleagues decided they weren't going to take it; they were going to go on strike. Audrey Smith-Campbell was not a union activist or an ideologue. She was for 30 years a certified nurse assistant, caring for our parents and our grandparents, giving them dignity in their most vulnerable moments. She knew she wasn't ever going to get paid what she was worth but she wanted to be paid at least enough to live on.

Audrey Smith-Campbell is dead. She died after having a severe asthma attack because she couldn't afford to pay for her medication when she was on strike. She should be honored for the way she lived—and we should all be ashamed for the reasons she died.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT ERISA AMENDMENTS OF 2008

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Pension Protection Act ERISA Amendments of 2008, PPAEA. Although I voted "no" on final passage of the Pension Protection Act, PPA, in 2006 due to a number of provisions, which put thousands of New Jersey jobs and retirees' plans at risk, I do believe there are many beneficial aspects of the law that are helping to protect the retirement plans of working Americans and retirees across the country.

For workers retired from a single-employer plan, PPA provided a better method of ensuring that an employer may continue to offer retirement benefits to their employees by meeting their plan financing obligations. This change made it far less likely that taxpayers would have to step in and pay the bill for thousands of retirees. PPA also provided smaller businesses with a bit more flexibility, by giving some of them a new plan option. One such option is known as the "Defined Small Employer Defined Benefit Plan" or "DB(k)," which I authored. DB(k) relieves employers of the administrative burden tailored for large plans and provides them with the best of both the defined benefit and defined contribution world.

For people who work for or are retired from multi-employer plans, the 2006 law gives those employers—and the funds to which they

belong—an opportunity to receive some relief from external circumstances that caused those plans to be in jeopardy; and again, relieving taxpayers of potential liability and obligation.

In 2005, on the eve of the introduction of PPA, the economic forecast predicted an avalanche of more defined benefit plan terminations, placing the solvency of the pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation, PBGC, as well as hundreds of millions of retirees' assets at risk. With several major companies expecting to either eliminate or freeze their defined benefit plans a few years ago, PPA has been instrumental in slowing the decline in defined benefit, DB, plans. Nevertheless, DB plans are still on the decline. Today, less than one in five workers in the private sector—20 million workers—has a traditional defined benefit plan, while 401(k) plans are on the rise, dominating the retirement landscape. Today over 50 million American workers are covered by a 401(k) plan. Whether these plans are adequate to provide the average American worker with a comfortable retirement remains a question we will continue to examine in the coming years.

Solving the problem of providing retirement coverage, which is both affordable and adequate, is a priority of mine, but before we address it, we must first make sure PPA is measuring up to its fullest potential. The purpose of PPAA is to correct a number of anomalies in PPA, which in many cases, subvert the policy goal of a particular provision. Though most of these anomalies were not intentional, if left uncorrected they have the potential to strip thousands of retirees of a lifetime of savings and force many employers to drop their retirement plan for their current employees.

As I indicated in the hearing I chaired last year in the Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, HELP, I am not interested in upsetting the fundamental agreements of PPA. Rather, I am most interested in vindicating those agreements and making them work better.

With the support of the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor and my good friend from California, GEORGE MILLER, and several other colleagues, I look forward to working with Members on both sides of the aisle to help pass a bill to further protect retiree assets, provide employers with a funding method that holds them accountable but provides flexibility, reduce burdensome transaction cost to plan sponsors and pensioners, and provide employers with additional investment tools to ensure that all retirees under their plan receive their promised benefit.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR WALLACE J. NICHOLS

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Wallace J. Nichols, who served as Mayor of Fountain Hills from May 2003 to May 2008. Mayor Nichols has exemplified the leadership, dedication, and insight that constitute a great public servant.

Mayor Nichols has a long and impressive record of service to the Fountain Hills commu-

nity. He served as an elected officer and Chairman of the Fountain Hills Sanitary District, Los Arcos Multipurpose Facilities District Board of Directors, Scottsdale Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors, Fountain Hills Boys & Girls Club Advisory Chairman, Chairman of the Fountain Hills Community Center Advisory Commission, and on the Citizens Committee/Community Benefits Committee Board.

Notably, he was instrumental in bringing the Boys and Girls Club to Fountain Hills. Mayor Nichols' support began on the advisory committee in Fountain Hills. Later, he became the head of the Four Peaks Branch fundraising campaign on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Scottsdale board. After tireless efforts from Wally, the Four Peaks Branch now boasts enrollment of nearly 1,000 children and teens. With overwhelming support from the Fountain Hills community, the Club is now offering more programs than it ever has, including outreach efforts with the neighboring Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. Wally truly understands that strong communities are built upon the foundation of strong families, and that strong families are borne from constant commitment to kids.

Mayor Nichols has not only worked to secure a brighter future for Fountain Hills' youth, but also a greener, more sustainable one. Valley Forward—an environmental organization that surveys communities every four years and assigns them letter grades in air, land, water, and transportation—labeled the Town of Fountain Hills the "most improved" community out of 16 Maricopa County governments in its 2008 report. Under Mayor Nichols, great strides were taken in trail access, economic development plans, and mountain and wash protection.

Other local affiliations include the Noon Kiwanis, Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce, Friend of the Fountain Hills Community Theater, Senior Center, Civic Association, Library Association, Republican Club, Fountain Hills Historical Society, and the Four Peaks Community Church. Focus on such organizations has helped create the sense of community involvement and civic participation in the Town of Fountain Hills.

As the former mayor of Tempe, I understand the challenges that governing a city can pose. Wally faced these challenges head on, with grace and unwavering commitment to the people he served.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing gratitude for the improvements Mayor Nichols has made upon Fountain Hills, and remembering the positive legacy that he has created for Arizona.

MUNSTER WE THE PEOPLE TEAMS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of an exceptional group of students from Munster High School, located in Indiana's First Congressional District. Two exceptional teams from Munster High School, Team Adams and Team Jefferson, accomplished the extraordinary feat of finishing in first and second place, respectively, in the State competition of the We the

People: The Citizen and the Constitution program. Following their victory at the State level, Team Adams went on to compete in the national finals held in Washington, DC+, from May 3-May 5, 2008. For their knowledge and understanding of the American Government, these extraordinary young people received an honorable mention as one of the top ten finalists at this year's national competition.

The We the People program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, is a program that reaches over 28 million elementary, middle, and high school students. The goal of the program is to provide students with an understanding of the fundamentals of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The program helps students to understand their rights under the American governmental system.

The people of Munster, as well as the entire northwest Indiana community, can be proud of this truly remarkable class of students. Team Adams consisted of the following students: James Burgwald, Sarah Chowdhury, Sophia Griggs, Nicole Hong, Megan Hruska, Grant Huebner, Daniel Jayakar, Robin Jiang, Neil Keshvani, Charlie Krull, Alicia Nieves, Paige Patterson, Blake Platt, Michael Pudlow, Matt Stewart, Nicholas Stoffregen, and Julianne Watterson. Team Jefferson was comprised of: Danny Alexander, Eric Anderson, Keriann Ballanco, Katharine Banks, Arefin Chowdhury, Lorian Estes, Amy Fuhs, Carly Gibbs, Russell Gonzalez, Jonathan Harangody, Jessica Hilbrich, Nithin Krishnan, Viraj Maniar, Samantha Mardyla, Martha Mihich, Lana Muhrez, Molly Poczonet, Abhinav Ravi, Christopher Witter, and Meagan Yothment.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the members of Munster High School's We the People program, as well as their coach, Mr. Michael Gordon, and all of the community and faculty members who have instilled in these students the desire to succeed. The values exhibited by these young people and their interest in the history and fundamentals of our great Nation serve to inspire us all. I am proud to represent these fine individuals in Congress, and I am proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize these future leaders. I look forward to watching their achievements as they continue to rise to the top.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DR. JACK HYMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of an outstanding doctor, a wonderful man, and a truly great American, Dr. Jack Hyman.

Dr. Hyman was born in Tampa, Florida, and graduated as valedictorian from Plant High School. After graduating from the University of Florida, he entered Tulane Medical School and received his M.D. in 1941. He spent a year training in Urology before he was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant. He served in World War II as a physician in the Pacific Theatre of Operations. Just two short days after he returned from the war, Dr. Hyman married his longtime sweetheart, Frances Levy.